

THE NETWORK: TOWARDS UNITY
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THE NETWORK
TOWARDS UNITY FOR HEALTH



Facultad de Medicina



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"PRIMARY HEALTH CARE: A PATH
TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE"

SYSTEMS AND COMMUNITY BASED
RESPONSES TO COVID-19

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TUFH 2020 Abstracts

Title	Supporting the Manenberg community in Cape Town, South Africa, amidst the Coronavirus pandemic – an insider perspective.
Type	Oral Presentation <i>Systems and Community Based Responses for COVID 19</i>
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Content

Background The COVID-19 pandemic uncovered the deficiencies of health systems globally, especially where health needs of communities are complicated by the existing burden of diseases and socio-economic disparities. Family Medicine is the clinical discipline which bridges health needs of individuals with those of their families and community. At the University of Cape Town in South Africa, the Division of Family Medicine has facilitated community-based student training over the past two decades. Postgraduate students at Master's level work in dedicated registrar posts within the district health system. **Methods** This presentation showcases the lived experience of a family medicine registrar. He is the first doctor from the Manenberg community in Cape Town. The community is known for its high incidence of crime and gang activity from an outsider perspective; however, from an insider perspective, the community faces challenges that are not apparent to the outsider (such as access to health care). **Results** The registrar facilitated care coordination of COVID-19 positive individuals via a grass roots level, community-orientated approach. This included helping positive patients to be quarantined safely, as the initiatives by the local health service and employers were not able to meet these needs. He met with local leaders to facilitate focused activities and also helped create awareness via social media. **Conclusion** The registrar was able to balance the emic and etic perspectives to enable his community to respond more efficiently to this public health emergency, by employing his contextual understanding with the principles of family medicine.